

VERTIC

There are a number of organisations that support the cause of arms control and disarming the world of biological weapons. Amongst them VERTIC (the Verification Research, Training and Information Centre) hold an important position. This organisation is based in London, UK. Whereas the treaty mechanisms to ban the use, production and proliferation of biological weapons are enshrined in BWC, VERTIC plays a crucial role in the implementation of the BWC. The organisation “focuses on agreements and initiatives in the areas of arms control, disarmament and the environment, with particular attention to issues of monitoring, review and verification.”¹

As regards its mandate, VERTIC is an independent organisation funded by numerous charitable organisations, trusts and by various state parties. According to VERTIC, “major funders are Chatham House, the Ford Foundation, the Government of Norway, the Government of Canada (Global Partnership Programme), the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, the Norwegian Radiation Protection Authority (NRPA), the Ploughshares Fund, the Strategic Programme Fund of the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the UK Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the US State Department (Biosecurity Engagement Programme)”.² “The mission of VERTIC is to “support the development, implementation and effectiveness of international agreements and related regional and national initiatives”.³ The most relevant contribution of VERTIC is to involve all the stakeholders in the biological weapons control debate in the global disarmament regime. Consultations held at various stages involve academics, policy makers, and private and public sector companies alike. VERTIC offers both consultancy and expert

advice on various matters related to monitoring, verification and implementation of various treaties.

VERTIC has three broad research programmes. These are, first Arms control and disarmament, second **National Implementation Measures (NIM)** and third, the environment.⁴ VERTIC maintains an overview of the multilateral agreements pertaining to arms control and disarmament in its first research programme. According to the VERTIC, The **National Implementation Measures (NIM) programme** “assists States in understanding what measures are required at the national level to comply with the prohibitions in the nuclear, biological and chemical weapons treaties and UN Security Council resolutions and provides support to implement them”.⁵ The main focus of this programme is the successful implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (UNSCR 1540).

Endnotes

- ¹ <http://www.vertic.org/>
- ² Ibid.
- ³ Ibid.
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ Ibid.